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CLAIMS

1. An antimicrobial peptide, named mytacin, characterized in that it can be obtained from a bivalve
5 mollusk, and in that

- its molecular mass is approximately 4.5 kDa;
- its pI is approximately 8.7;
- it comprises 8 cysteine residues.

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2. The peptide as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the following sequence (I):

HX₁HX₂CTSYX₃CX₄KFCGTAX₅CTX₆YX₇CRX₈LHX₉GKX₁₀CX₁₁CX₁₂HCSR (I)

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in which: X₁ = P or S, X₂ = V or A, X₃ = Y or W, X₄ = S or G, X₅ = S or G, X₆ = R or H, X₇ = G or L, X₈ = N or V, X₉ = R or P, X₁₀ = L or M, X₁₁ = F or A, and X₁₂ = L or H.

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3. The peptide as claimed in claim 2, chosen from the group consisting of:

- a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ia):

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HSRACTSYWCGKFCGTASCTHYLCRVLHPGKMCACVHCSR (Ia)

- a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ib):

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HPHVCTSYYSKFCGTAGCTRYGCRNLHRGKLCFCLHCSR (Ib).

4. A nucleic acid comprising a sequence encoding the peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

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5. An oligonucleotide comprising a segment of at least 15 bp, and preferably at least 20 bp, of the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 4.

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6. An expression cassette comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 4, under the transcriptional control of a suitable promoter.
- 5 7. A recombinant vector, characterized in that it comprises at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 4.
8. A prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell transformed with
10 a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 4.
9. A method for producing the peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it comprises expressing a nucleic acid as claimed in
15 claim 4, in at least one transformed cell as claimed in claim 8.
10. The use of the peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, for producing an antimicrobial agent.